



October 2019 NEWS



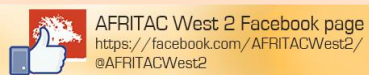
Table of Contents

Highlights.....1
 Summary of Work Plan Execution and Key Achievements.....2
 AFW2 Center Outreach and Other Activities.....3
 Regional Workshops.....4
 Professional Attachments.....4
 Upcoming Activities.....5
 Staff Changes.....6
 Completed Technical Assistance Reports in FY 2020.....7

AFRITAC West 2

4th Floor, World Bank Group Bldg.
 3 Independence Avenue, Ridge
 PMB CT 10758 Cantonments
 Accra, Ghana
 Tel: (+233) 242 435 009/28
www.afritacwest2.org

Visit our Facebook page for updates on Center’s activities (click the image below):



Highlights



Regional Advisor for Statistics, Mrs. Elirjeta Pepaj, meets with officials of the Instituto Nacional de Estatística (INECV) Cabo Verde, September 2-13

AFW2 work program execution at mid-year is on course, picking up momentum from the beginning of FY 2020. **Thirty-five (35) TA missions, four (4) regional workshops and a professional attachment were completed in the period August – October 2019.**



Students from the University of Copenhagen at AFRITAC West II in Accra.



Summary of Work Plan Execution and Key Achievements

Tax Administration

In the second quarter, work in tax administration focused on strengthening intelligence and investigation capacity in Cabo Verde to improve compliance towards strengthening revenue administration management. Work continued from Q1 in Ghana to strengthen the GRA's Strategic Planning capacity, as it took steps to operationalize its 3rd Strategic Plan. Progress was made towards improving core tax administration functions with TA provided in excise duties management and telecom sector audit capacity (Liberia).

Customs

CD provided in the period aimed at improving customs administration functions and strengthening governance arrangement. A significant part of the work centered on the development of customs integrity strategies in line with the ECOWAS model framework. AFW2 countries have, as a result, developed logical frameworks, integrity policy, and action plans for implementation.

Additional work supported the development of risk management strategies and standard operating procedures (SOPs) for review of risk profiles for risk management committees in Ghana and Sierra Leone. An HQ-led assessment of the Ghana Revenue Authority was conducted in Q2. Gambia, with assistance from AFW2, made progress on drafting a new strategic plan. The Gambian Revenue Authority also received intermediate training on customs valuation and classification, developing capacity for future training.

The post clearance audit (PCA) unit in the Nigerian Revenue Authority received training in PCA and was supported to draft and submit SOPs.

Public Financial Management (PFM)

In PFM, support was given to fragile states in mitigating fiscal risks from state-owned enterprises. The Department of Public Private Partnership (DPPP) in the Gambia developed of an IFRS-based training curriculum for its staff and formulated a roadmap for adopting SOE performance-based contracts. In Sierra Leone, officials received training on fiscal risks related to PPPs, leading to a request for more targeted training on the PPP Fiscal Risk Assessment Model (PFRAM). Additionally, TA support strengthened capacity in strategic medium-term budgeting (Ghana, Nigeria).

Monetary Operations (MONOPS)

A highlight of CD in monetary operations and payment systems was the strengthening of the analytical toolkit of research departments to improve forward-looking monetary policy analysis and forecasting (Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria). Fragile states are now able to forecast the consumer price index (CPI) and composite indicators of economic activity (CIEA) 6 months ahead. The CIEA is now being presented to the Monetary Policy Technical Committee (MPTC) in Nigeria. In Ghana, forecasting for policy analysis (FPAS) is supporting the central bank's inflation targeting regime.

Finally, a regional workshop and in addition to a mission in Sierra Leone strengthened monetary policy communication capacity. Sierra Leone has

now issued its first ever Monetary Policy Report in September 2019.

Banking Supervision and Payment Systems

TA in banking supervision continued to target Basel II/III implementation (Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria) and strengthened risk-based supervision (RBS) (Gambia, Sierra Leone). A regional workshop on the Basel Core Principles (BCP) Self-Assessment Methodology helped the central banks to identify and address gaps in their supervisory processes. The Bank of Sierra Leone and Central Bank of Gambia completed a draft RBS manual and draft RBS framework, to be used for training supervisory staff.

Statistics

AFW2 supported the rebasing of GDP (Cabo Verde, Gambia). The Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBoS) is working toward finalization of rebased GDP by expenditure approach. Cabo Verde continues to work on rebasing annual national accounts with base year 2015. The main data sources for rebasing have been prepared and the first analyses to ensure the data sources consistency will start soon. Further progress was made by the Nigeria Bureau of Statistics (NBS) toward the development of the Supply and Use Tables SUT spreadsheet for compiling rebased GDP, and on sourcing data and refining the bridge tables.

AFW2 Center Outreach and Other Activities

The center continued to make efforts to raise awareness about the fund's CD mandate and strengthening coordination among donor partners and regional bodies. A number of presentations were organized; (i) to the Civic Society Organizations in Ghana to share highlights and observations from Phase I (2014 – 2019) and strategies going into phase II; (ii) to development partners on the integration of CD and surveillance. Major themes of discussion were the implications of the new Ghana Beyond Aid vision for CD in Ghana and strategies for enhanced coordination among CD providers.

In October, the center also hosted students of Economics from the University of Copenhagen, while the Center Director participated in the IMF RCDC Retreat and met with country authorities in Cabo Verde.



Regional Workshops

Regional Workshop on Monetary Policy Communication, September 2–6, Accra, Ghana

This workshop was organized to expose high-level central bank staff, top management, and MPC members to the concepts of communication, and equip them with the tools and techniques to improve that communication.

Joint Regional Workshop with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), on Basel Core

Principles Self-Assessment Methodology, September 16 – 20, Abuja, Nigeria.

This workshop focused on delivering Basel Core Principles Self-Assessment Methodology to member countries and Guinea. critical in getting the jurisdictions to conduct honest self-assessments of gaps in their supervisory processes and take appropriate measures to address them.

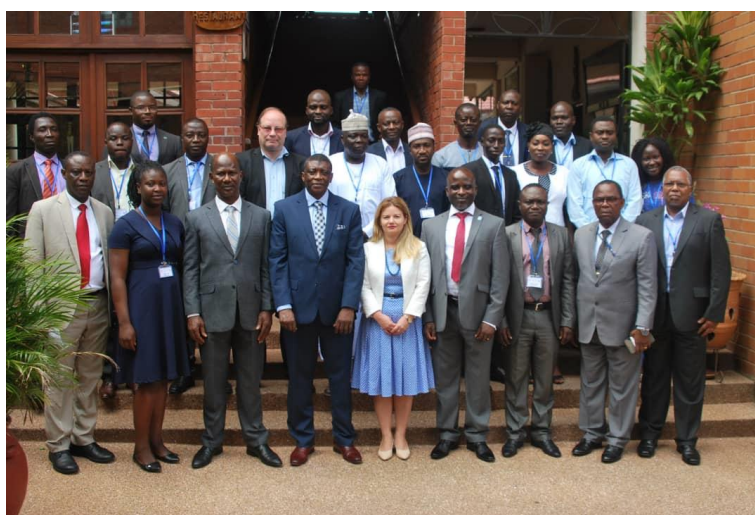


Joint Regional Workshop on Revenue Administration Governance with FAD HQ, AFRITAC East, AFRITAC South and AFRITAC West 2 , September 23 – 25, Cape Town, South Africa

This seminar was designed to create a platform for discussion and interaction and update participants in the fields of good governance and autonomy and revenue administration.

Regional Workshop on System of National Accounts 2008 (with WAIFEM), October 28 – Nov 8, Accra, Ghana

AFRITAC West 2 hosted a two-week training course on Systems of National Accounts 2008, in collaboration with the West African Institute for Financial & Economic Management (WAIFEM), with staff from central banks and statistical agencies in attendance.



Upcoming Activities

CUSTOMS	
Regional FAD Seminar on Customs Issues Benin, <i>December 3 - 6</i>	TA mission on stakeholder engagement Gambia, <i>January 20 - 31</i>
TA mission on stakeholder engagement – Sierra Leone, <i>November 25 - December 6</i>	TA mission on Customs integrity – Sierra Leone, <i>January 21 - 27</i>
PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT	
FAD led mission on Assessing Contingent Liabilities Nigeria, <i>December 4-12</i>	Follow up Mission on Treasury Single Account The Gambia, <i>January 22-February 4</i>
Developing a Budget Performance Monitoring Framework for Ghana Ghana, <i>January 20-30</i>	Training Program on Cash forecasting Nigeria, <i>January 13-17</i>
Identification and management of fiscal risks arising from PPP projects Ghana, <i>January 20-24</i>	Regional Workshop: Fiscal and Financial Reporting The Gambia, <i>December 2-6</i>
MONOPS	
Joint AFW2/AFS/ATI peer-to-peer knowledge exchange Forecasting and Policy Analysis Workshop Mauritius, <i>December 9-13</i>	
FINANCIAL SECTOR SUPERVISION AND REGULATION	
Progressing risk-based supervision (RBS) (Developing RBS Onsite Inspection Manual) Gambia, <i>December 2-13</i>	Integrating RBS Offsite/Onsite Activities Ghana, <i>January 13-24</i>
REAL SECTOR STATISTICS	
National Accounts (Rebasing of GDP) Sierra Leone, <i>January 13-24</i>	National Accounts (Development of quarterly GDP by expenditures approach) Ghana, <i>January 27-February 7</i>

Professional Attachments

A professional attachment on building the integrity of the taxpayer ledger was organized for staff of the Gambia Revenue Authority at the Rwanda Revenue Authority from October 28 to November 8.

Staff Changes



Ms. Deborah Morrison, staff assistant, separated from the Center in October 2019 after three years of service. We wish her all the best in future endeavors.

AFRITAC WEST 2 STAFF

Center Director	Oral H. Williams
Resident Advisors	
Revenue Administration	
Tax	Henry Gaperi
Customs	David Smith
Public Financial Management	Naresh Jha Kubai Khasiani
Monetary Operations and Payment Systems	Zsolt Érsek
Financial Supervision and Regulation	Vitus C. Ukwuoma
Real Sector Statistics	Elirjeta Pepaj
Results-Based Management Officer	Elorm Darkey
Economist	Pokuaa Adu
Office Manager	Janice Norman
Administrative Support	
Admin/IT Officer	Selase Kofi Dusi
Administrative Assistant	Maria Adam
Driver	Peter Nii Laryea

AFW2 Member Countries



AFW2 Development Partners



Completed Technical Assistance Reports¹ in FY 2020

Title of Report	Country	Date Sent to Authorities
REVENUE ADMINISTRATION (TAX)		
Follow-up to Finalize Compliance Improvement Plan	Ghana	5/15/2019
VAT Compliance and Data Matching Follow up	Ghana	5/15/19
Audit Capacity Building Follow-Up	Cabo Verde	5/30/2019
Goods and Services Tax (GST) Compliance and Data Matching Follow-up	Sierra Leone	6/26/2019
Follow-up to Strengthen Tax Audit Capacity of the Telecommunication Sector	Gambia, The	7/5/2019
Excise Control and Structure Review	Liberia	7/5/2019
AW2: Review and Assist to Complete Preparing the LRA Audit Manual	Liberia	8/7/2019
Strengthen VAT Compliance and data matching capacity	Nigeria	10/2/2019
Build and maintain integrity of taxpayer ledger	Gambia	8/22/19
Strengthen capacity to audit telecom sector	Gambia	10/10/19
Strengthen excise duties management capacity	Liberia	10/27/19
REVENUE ADMINISTRATION (CUSTOMS)		
Post Clearance Audit Training and Mentoring Support	Ghana	6/3/2019
Provision of Mentoring Support to Intelligence and Investigation Units (Phase 2)	Ghana	6/3/2019
Development of Stakeholder Engagement Strategy	Gambia	9/11/2019
Valuation and Classification Training and Mentoring Support (Phase 2)	Liberia	6/12/2019
Review of Customs Exemptions Procedures	Gambia, The	6/26/2019
Implementation of Risk Management Strategy	Liberia	6/28/2019
Completion of Business Process Mapping and Development of Customs Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)	Cabo Verde	7/4/2019
Integrity Strategy and Implementation of Action Plan	Ghana	7/16/19
Development and Implementation of Direção Nacional de Receitas do Estado Integrity Strategy	Cabo Verde	7/18/19
Development of Post Clearance Audit SOPs and Guidelines	Liberia	9/10/19
AW2: Development of Controls for ECOWAS Customs Integrity Framework (Phase 1)	Gambia	9/11/2019
Completion of Training Needs Analysis (TNA) for Valuation and Classification Training and Preparation of Training Module	Sierra Leone	9/11/2019
Development of Post Clearance Audit SOPs and Guidelines	Ghana	9/12/19

¹ Includes Technical Memos/Reports and Aide Memoires sent to country authorities at October 1, 2019



Delivery of Customs Induction Training Module (Phase 4)	Gambia, The	9/13/19
Strengthen intelligence and criminal investigation capacity	Cabo Verde	9/17/19
Professional Attachment on Development of Integrity Strategy Action Plan and Monitoring and Evaluation Framework	Nigeria	9/25/2019
AW2: Development and Implementation of Controls for ECOWAS Customs Integrity Framework (Phase 1)	Nigeria	10/3/2019
Implementation of Post Clearance Audit Procedures (Phase 3)	Nigeria	10/3/2019
AW2: Development of Controls for ECOWAS Customs Integrity Framework (Phase 1)	Sierra Leone	10/3/2019
Development of Controls for ECOWAS Customs Integrity Framework	Cabo Verde	10/24/19
PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT		
Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA) Excel-Based Tool Training to the Public Investment and Assets Division	Ghana	5/16/2019
Developing a Methodology for Analyzing SOE Fiscal Risks	Liberia	5/27/2019
Fiscal Data Integrity and Fiscal Reporting		6/28/2019
Development and Implementation of Direcção Nacional de Receitas do Estado Integrity Strategy	Cabo Verde	7/18/2019
AW2: Review and Reorganization of the Functions of the CAG	Ghana	8/15/2019
AW2: Review and Reorganization of the Functions of the CAG	Ghana	8/15/2019
AW2: Support the Development of GFS 2014 Based CoA and their Use in Preparing Budget	Gambia	8/19/2019
Follow up Mission Supporting the Upgrade of COA Aligned with GFSM 2014 and their Implementation	Sierra Leone	8/29/2019
Follow up Mission Supporting the Upgrade of COA Aligned with GFSM 2014 and their Implementation	Sierra Leone	8/29/2019
AW2: Q1 Training and Support to SOE Accounting Staff to Introduce International Financial Reporting	Gambia	9/24/2019
Enhancing Cash Forecasting and Planning in FGN	Nigeria	9/24/2019
MONETARY POLICY AND PAYMENT SYSTEMS		
Improving Monetary Policy Analysis	Liberia	7/4/2019
Developing Monetary and Macroeconomic Analysis and Liquidity Management	Liberia	7/4/2019
Improving Monetary Operations and Payment Systems Oversight	Liberia	7/18/2019
Payment Systems Oversight and Foreign Exchange Operations	Gambia, The	8/13/2019
AW2: Developing Forward Looking Monetary Analysis	Nigeria	11/1/2019
BANKING SUPERVISION AND REGULATION		
Progressing Basel II/III	Gambia, The	5/16/2019

Enhancing Risk Based Supervision	Ghana	5/31/2019
Reviewing Progress of Risk Based Supervision Implementation	Gambia, The	6/26/2019
REAL SECTOR STATISTICS		
National Accounts	Gambia, The	6/13/2019
Consumer Price Index	Cabo Verde	6/19/2019
National Accounts	Nigeria	7/2/2019
National accounts - Rebasing of GDP	Gambia	8/23/2019
National accounts - Rebasing of GDP	Liberia	10/3/2019
Price statistics- Rebasing of Consumer Price Index	Gambia	10/15/19